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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,061	09/24/2003	William S. Eaton	200207971	5094

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HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY  
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/01/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/670,061	<b>Applicant(s)</b> EATON, WILLIAM S.	
	<b>Examiner</b> GABRIEL I. GARCIA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12 and 20-242 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 13-16 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-6 and 17-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**Part III DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-7 and 13-19 in the reply filed on 3/2/09 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claims were previously rejected and that it won't be a serious burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because Examiner maintains that the other inventions would require different searches and Examiner asserts that claims are drawn to different inventions. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL. Applicant's arguments are not found to be persuasive because Examiner asserts that claims are not simply variant of the elected species, and the different claims will required searching in different areas not necessity in the elected claims.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 8-12 and 20-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected group.

3. Claims 6 and 7 recite the limitation "said offset voltage" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4,7,13-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beck et al. (6,755,495).

With regard to claim 1, Beck et al. teaches a driver circuit (fig. 4) for driving simultaneously a variable number of firing resistors for a printhead (e.g. col. 3, lines 1-11) during a printing firing cycle (e.g. col. 5, lines 36-44), the driver circuit comprising: a drive circuit for supplying firing pulses for firing the variable number of firing resistors during the printing firing cycle(e.g. col. 3, lines 1-11 and col. 5, lines 36-44); a circuit for adjusting a magnitude of a voltage or a current of said drive signal during the printing firing cycle in dependence on the variable number of firing resistors to be fired simultaneously in a given subset during the printing firing cycle (e.g. col. 3, lines 17-32, col. 5, lines 36-44).

With regard to claim 2, Beck et al. teaches wherein said drive circuit is a voltage source, and said circuit adjusts a voltage magnitude of said drive signal col. 5, lines 36-44).

With regard to claim 3, Beck et al. teaches wherein said circuit adjusts the voltage magnitude in dependence on said variable number of firing resistors being simultaneously fired (e.g. col. 3, lines 17-32, col. 5, lines 36-44).

With regard to claims 4 and 9, Beck et al. teaches wherein said circuit provides an increased voltage magnitude for larger variable numbers and wherein said offset

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voltage is a monotonically increasing function of said variable number of firing resistors (e.g. col. 3, lines 17-32, as the number of resistor increases the more voltage is used).

With regard to claims 13-16 and 19, the limitations of claims 13-16 and 19 are covered by the limitations of claims 1-4 and 7 above.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Claims 5-6 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach the limitations as recited in claims 5-6 and 17-18 in combination with the features of the independent claim.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Beck et al. (6,755,495) teaches an integrated control of power delivery to firing resistors for printhead assembly

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

/Gabriel I Garcia/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625

**Gabriel I. Garcia**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**April 23, 2009**